



ARC-OVER

August, 2017 EDITION

Grandpa I'm In Trouble

Those are the words one never wants to hear over the telephone. I want to share this event with you who are grandparents so that you can benefit from my experience.

Those were the words I heard over the phone August the 28th in the morning. I responded with what's the matter Kyle. Well I was in an accident last night. I'm in jail and have one phone call to a relative. I'm sorry to lay this on you but you were the only one I could think to call. I was texting not paying attention and rear ended another car. The lady is claiming her back is injured. I have to be up front and admit I was coming home from a party and had been drinking a bit. I failed the breathalyzer test and was arrested and thrown in jail. Can you call my attorney? He proceeded to give me a name, telephone number and booking number. I ask him if he had the attorneys name and number why didn't he call him to begin with. He indicated the call had to be a family member. I asked him if he had insurance and he said he did and the insurance was already on board. Also that he could not get to an ATM to cover bail until released.

Upon calling the Attorney I gave him Kyle's name and the booking number. He looked it up and indicated that yes he was arrested for dui and bodily injury. He indicated, this should not be a problem and they could get an immediate release and had a good chance of getting the charges minimized or possibly dropped. The only thing was nothing could be done until cash bail was paid. He said in order to accomplish this in the quickest possible manner, I would need to go to Rite Aid and purchase 9 \$500 gift cards to cover the \$4500 bail. I was then to call him with the card numbers upon which he would issue me a return authorization number which would insure my reimbursement up on his release. He indicated they should be able to get a speedy trial and my money would be refunded in approximately three days. I questioned why not place the money in his sisters bank account which I had access to and let her pay the bail. He indicated in that I was the initial contact, I was the one who had to come up with the cash. What about a cashiers check? Would have to wait on mail. Reluctantly I said OK let me see what I can do. He then asked how long would it take, I responded around an hour. So with that I hung up...

Feeling a bit wary I called our attorney friend Walter Schmidt, KI6PBL and ran it by him. Hmm sounds a bit strange and a bit hokey way to do business, lemme check this guy out. I then went on line looking for a Lawyer or Bail Bondsman by that name in the San Luis Obispo area. NO JOY... Just for Grins I called one of the SLO bail bondsmen and ran the story by him. He admitted sounded strange and in fact the booking number given me was not one for San Luis Obispo. Woops, lets call the jail, they confirmed the booking number was not one of theirs and besides they didn't have a Kyle Williams in custody. Hmm lets try the City Police in case the city has their own jail. There a young lady told me that I had been a victim of the grandparents scam. Young people are hired to call grandparents pretending to be a seldom heard from grand child who is in trouble and need of money. I am recounting all of this to warn you who are grandparents that you could be also be a victim. Look up Grandparents Scam on Google and you will be amazed to the extent this happens on a daily basis. Only thing I regret is loosing this guys name and telephone number. I could then have each of you give him a call in the middle of the night on your trip down the hall and remind him he is going to straight to blazes for scamming us old folks... You have now been warned...
K6IXA Editor

Prez Sez

With September being National Preparedness month it's a good reminder to have a portable station setup on hand with enough power to stay on the air. The Detwiler fire was a good reminder of this as well. Even though PG&E power was out TARC's repeater system was able to stay on the air for about five days. All of this thanks to the new generator.

At the last meeting Dick, K6SUU, gave a presentation on a few of the DMR nets. Dick also went on to explain the vastness of the system and how the Brandmeister DMR network is interconnected.

In lieu of National Preparedness Month the meeting program in September will feature a handful of local guys bringing in their "go-boxes" and portable kits. Also to be discussed at the meeting will be all of the Fall and Winter events TARC will be involved in. Don't forget about the Yaesu FT-65 Dual Band HT raffle prize.

Remember to spread the word about TARC's Fall auction on October 14!

de Spencer Boyd – KJ6ART
TARC President

Turlock Amateur Radio Club	
August 8, 2017 General Meeting Minutes	Pizza Factory Turlock, California

Call to Order: A general meeting of the TARC was held at the Pizza Factory, Turlock, California on August 8, 2017. The meeting convened at 7:02 PM. Spencer Boyd, KJ6ART, presiding; Bambi Schmidt, KI6YQL, substitute secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Spencer Boyd, KJ6ART.

Approval of General Meeting Minutes: Bambi Schmidt, KI6YQL, made a motion to approve the July General Meeting minutes. Seconded by Dinnie Echols, N6TLW. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Spencer Boyd, KJ6ART, presented the treasurer's report.

Arc-Over: The deadline for the January Arc-Over will be August 15th.

Repeater Committee: Grady Williams, K6IXA, said that the Buck Rock repeater is back on the air. He noted that there is a link issue that will be resolved soon.

New Business:

Chris Coffin: Spencer, KJ6ART, explained that Chris had passed about a week prior. Grady, K6IXA, made a motion that TARC make a \$50 dollar donation in the name of Chris to Little Lights Preschool in Turlock. Bobby Mooneyham, WB6BRU, seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Detwiler Post Analysis

On June 16, 2017 the Detwiler fire started along Hunter's Valley Road near Hornitos. The fire aggressively doubled its size every night until it jumped highway 49 on the morning of July 18. From there it moved quickly to the top of the ridge where Mt. Bullion lies. Minimal damage was done to communication equipment but a few PG&E power poles did burn.

The W6BXN repeater system lost commercial power at approximately midnight on the morning of July 18. At that point TARC's newly installed generator started and power to the system was switched over. When the generator started the repeater controller detected voltage on an auxiliary input indicating that the generator was running. After the controller detected a rising edge of voltage it switched the VHF courtesy tone to a "tri-beep" tone instead of the normal single beep.

The generator continued to keep the system on the air for the next 131 hours until PG&E power was restored at approximately 11 AM on July 23. It's wonderful news that the repeaters stayed on the air for the entirety of the outage but a person like myself gets curious on how long we *could* have operated with no PG&E power.

Here's what we know:

In May when the generator was serviced and the 300 gallon propane tank was at 80% (240 gallons). After the generator had been running for 84 hours the tank read 65% (195 gallons). Following this we know that the generator under our load consumes about .53 gallons of propane (.16% of the tank) an hour. All of this means that we could have operated a total of 20 days on emergency power. It should be noted that there were a few unknown variables that could have lengthened the time that the generator could have run but no shorter than the 20 days.

In the weeks following the fire the propane tank was refilled and the generator was serviced. We also improved logging and record keeping on the generator so next time we can zero in our values next time. We're ready when Murphy strikes again.

Spencer KJ6ART

September 12th Meeting

The September meeting will cover emergency preparedness specifically "Go Boxes" If you have a go box, then bring it to share with the group. If not come prepared to glean ideas on what you might want to include in your own emergency "Go Box"... Preparedness is essential in any emergency situation... Case in point during the Detwiler fire the W6BXN repeater was on the air due to the prudent installation of the emergency generator. Our system and the W6HHD D-Star were the Only systems that were still functional during the 5 day PG&E outage...

In addition to a well equipped Go Box you might want to consider your mobile installation that all is functional and you have personal items in a trunk bag that would sustain you for a couple of days on the road if required. Those of us who have been at this for a few years have already been down this road and have a pretty good idea on the do's and don'ts to be shared...

K6IXA Editor





*Stanislaus County Amateur Radio Emergency Services
and
Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association*

Day of HAM RADIO!

September 9, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**City of Modesto/Stanislaus County Emergency
Operations Center, 3705 Oakdale Rd., Modesto**



Join us for a T-Hunt using APRS, ARES trackers, etc. Work up a hunger as you locate your way to a designated lunch location for a prepared lunch for only \$3.00 per person. Following lunch there will be HF time - erecting antennas - testing wire antennas - making contacts, etc. For more information please contact Pat Mandas - kg6jxz@charter.net.

Ragbag Brigade

Scott Van Artsdalen N6SVA of Modesto is a welcome addition to the Local group of Rag Bag Fliers. Scotty recently purchased and assembled a Six Shooter P3 ultra-lite... The P3 is in the ultra-lite category which does NOT require a pilots license in that it weighs under 256 pounds, has a single seat and is limited to 5 gallons of fuel on board... Not withstanding, it's a ton of fun... Scotty is transitioning from a PPG (Powered Paraglider) to the PPC (Powered Parachute)... Primary difference is the PPG chute control is by hand where as the PPC is foot controlled, leaving hands free to take pictures, operate video, scratch nose, etc... The PPC being a bit more docile, makes it more difficult to get in trouble... You have to do something really dumb to hurt yourself... Scotty trailers his bird out to New Jerusalem Airstrip between Modesto and Tracy for most of his flights... He is on facebook if you care to follow his flying activities...

Welcome Aboard Scotty...



Here's a shot of Grady and Stratt Riggs from the Golden Valley Chorus, warming up the oil in 68 N Zed at Ballico International... Too Windy to fly that day... Stratt anxious to return for his ride in the airborne motorcycle...

Stratt has ample opportunity to experience the open air pleasure in his 1928 Model A roadster... It travels faster than the PPC however doesn't rotate and take off for squat...

Now if we can just get Scott to show up at Ballico for a duel, flight...



CA Hands Free Law – Update

This is shared from our San Francisco Section Manager, Bill Hillendahl – KH6GJV.

We have been fielding a number of inquiries on if Amateur Radio (2-way radio) is exempt from the updated “hands-free” law that went into effect on January 1st of this year. The language of the legislation is “all inclusive” and tends to, by default, wrap 2-way radio use into the prohibition. Amateur licensees in the Pacific and South West Divisions of ARRL have been working on this issue. The original bill’s sponsor has been contacted a number of times. The CHP command has also been contacted.

As a result, the CHP has issued a memo to its officers advising that “a radio installed and mounted in a vehicle with a wired hand microphone is not considered a wireless communications device.....and therefore is not subject to enforcement under this section.” That memo was issued on March 28, 2017.

More recently, the sponsoring assemblyman entered into the Assembly Journal a letter establishing the legislative intent of the law. Essentially, the letter states that common 2-way, wired radio use was not intended to be addressed by the newer hands-free law. This letter was published in the Assembly Journal on April 27, 2017.

Please note: Use of an HT would still be a violation. The radio must be mounted and the microphone be corded to the radio.

I have packaged the CHP memo and the letter to the Assembly Journal in one document. Please pass it on. Amateurs should carry copies of these documents in their vehicles to present to law enforcement officials in case they are stopped. It may, or may not, prevent them from receiving a citation.

Please remember that not all law enforcement officers will be aware of these documents, and may not follow them. Amateurs may still be cited.

I would like to hear if any Amateur is actually cited under CVC 23123.5 for using Amateur Radio.

We can all thank the past SW Div Vice Director Marty Woll N6VI, Jim Aspinwall NO1PC, Norm Lucas WB6RVR, and others behind the scenes for their valiant effort to move this clarification forward. The effort is not over, as equally ambiguous language is being promoted in the revision to the law moving through the legislature now.

Please remind everyone that they must still not use their radios in a manner that detracts from their safe operation of their vehicle. Drivers can still be cited under the very broad “distracted driving” code section.



Assuming everything is properly Mounted, Pix on Left is completely legal (I think)...

Whereas
HT on the
right is Illegal.

K6IXA Editor



Turlock Amateur Radio Club Fall Auction

Saturday October 14, 2017

Crossroads Church

1360 North Johnson Road, Turlock CA.

Doors Open 8:00 am — Auction Starts 9:00 am

Estates Plus many consigned Items
(Check Auction Tab www.w6bxn.org for updates)

Kurt's Famous BBQ Pull Pork & Chicken Sammiches
with Drink & all da Trimmings
Here's How ya get there

